

CHAPTER THIRTY

The Center Creek Story

Through the years, the settlers and residents of Center Creek in eastern Provo Valley have enjoyed abundant living. They have enjoyed a life close to the soil. They have been close to the sun-lit pastures where cattle peacefully graze, and they have been close to the fields where seeds have sprouted and grown to provide food for men. Theirs has been a life of prayer and toil mixed in along each row of seeds sown; of gratitude and thanksgiving with each harvest; and the joy of friends and loved ones close at hand.

Those who first settled the rich, green meadow lands along Center Creek were drawn there by the irrigation water available. Some of these pioneers who built log homes for their families and began clearing the land for farming were Thomas Ross, Joseph Fawcett, Joseph Cluff, James Adams and Jackson Smith.

By early 1861 there were 12 families living along the creek. This soon grew to 20 families, and the population was large enough to organize a branch of the Church. John Harvey moved to the community in 1861 to organize the branch and direct the Church activities. Reports are that the meetings were well attended, with some of the credit undoubtedly going to Ann Harvey who enlivened the meetings by an excellent choir that she trained and directed.

Farming activities in the community continued until 1866 when Indian troubles and the Black Hawk War broke out. The settlers were advised to leave their outlying homes along Center Creek and move closer to the main settlements of Heber. For more than 10 years the lands along Center Creek were uninhabited.

By 1877 the Indian problems were solved and leaders in the valley deemed it safe for those along Center Creek to return to their homes. Many of the original families had become established near Heber City and decided not to return.

Those who were instrumental in reestablishing Center were William Richardson Sr., a Mr. Blancher, Archie Sellers Sr., Joseph Thomas, Benjamin Cluff, George Muir Sr., William Pridy, William Cole, George Hyrum Sweet and Sid Worsley. In 1879 the Worsley homestead was purchased and developed by James Lindsay.

The Center Ward was organized on July 15, 1877 with Benjamin Cluff as Bishop. He chose as his counselors Sidney Worsley and John Harvey. Other counselors who served with Bishop Cluff were John Baird, William Blake and Archibald Richardson.

Because the settlers in Center Creek depended upon farming for their livelihood, irrigation waters were of utmost importance. Some of the earliest community cooperative projects, as well as some of the disputes, transpired because of the need for irrigation water.

The first settlers in the area laid claim to the water in Center Creek and also some of the smaller streams nearby. This meant that new families coming into the area either had to get permission from the older residents to use the water, or look elsewhere for their irrigation needs. The new settlers felt that there was ample water for everyone if it were to be distributed fairly, but try as they would, they couldn't persuade the original settlers to give up much of it.

As a result, many meetings were held in an effort to solve the problem, and it was finally resolved that the newer settlers would go into Center Creek Canyon and look for sites where reservoirs could be built to hold water that was just going to waste. They located and staked out six reservoir sites, and began the task of building the dams. However, the struggles were still not ended because the early settlers then attempted to stop them from filling the dams. Many lively meetings ensued before it was finally decided to organize a reservoir company in 1879 and subsequently the Center Creek Irrigation and Water Company in 1887. Now 72 years later these two companies were consolidated in 1962.

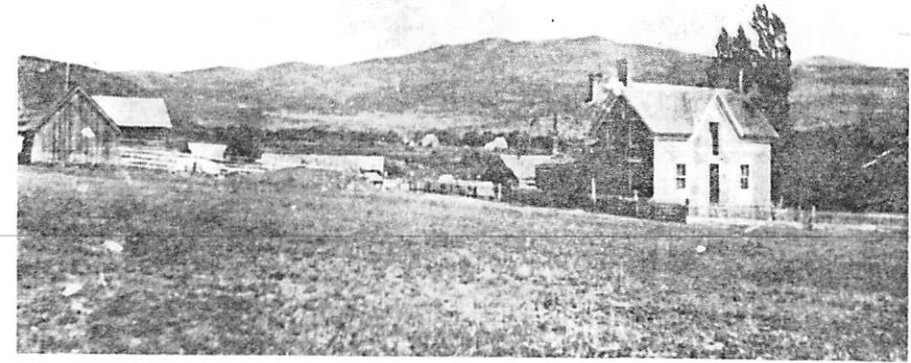
With the organization of the Irrigation Company, the settlement of disputes was left up to the officers and directors, who attempted to be as fair as possible. William Richardson Sr. was the first president of the company. Other officers were Parley Murdock, Archibald Sellers and George Hyrum Sweat.

While the community of Center Creek was growing, another community about two miles north of Center began to develop. This was known as Lake Creek, and began about 1877. Robert Lindsay and his wife Sarah Ann, and William Lindsay and his wife Mary, had been living in Heber, but decided to look around for a site where they might establish more permanent homes. They finally decided on a site three miles east of Heber, near a spring, and in 1877 moved from Heber to begin farming the rich soil.

They built log homes and lived close together until about 1883 when they decided it would be much easier to work the farm land if one family lived in the upper section. They drew lots to see who would move, and Robert got the "cut" to move. He built a two-room log house and later a large, two-story home for his family.

As these men found success in farming the Lake Creek land, others soon began to take up homesteads in the area. Some of these homesteaders included Bengt Peterson, James Nash, William Murdoch Sr., William Baird Sr. and John W. Crook.

An excellent sandstone quarry was developed on property owned by John Crook and Herbert Clegg. The stone was used to build many of



A home built from red sandstone by Thomas Phillips in the early days of the Lake Creek area. This photograph was taken of the home in 1910.

the homes in Center Creek, Lake Creek, Heber and even in Salt Lake City. Some of the buildings constructed of the stone were the Stake House and County Court House, the jail and the Central and North Schools, all in Heber. The sand stone was also used for sidewalks and for lining graves.

Lake Creek settlers also had their irrigation water problems as the population began to grow, and on May 2, 1888 the farmers of the area met to formulate plans for an irrigation company. An organizing committee was formed with Robert Broadhead as chairman and Robert Clegg as secretary. By July 6, 1888 the company organization was ready and Mr. Broadhead was elected as the first president. William Lindsay was named secretary with Henry Chatwin as treasurer and John Lee and Henry Clegg as directors.

First stockholders in the company were Henry Clegg, Robert Broadhead, John Lee, Henry Chatwin, James Nash, Elizabeth Nash, a Mrs. Phillips, John Baird, William Baird, James Baird, Robert and William Lindsay, Milton and William Murdoch, Orson Lee, Abram Hatch, Bengt Peterson, Mrs. Elisha Jones, Richard Jones, Thomas Campbell, William Blake, Mrs. William Cole, Eric Erickson, William Priestly, John Lloyd, Nels and Ludwig Anderson, Thomas and William Clegg, William Davis, Rasmus Miller, Rasmus Anderson and Charles W. Giles.

For several years the Lake Creek settlement continued, and separate school and church organizations were developed. However, it was gradually assimilated into the Center Creek development and became part of that community.

Industry in Center Creek has largely centered around farming. However, one of the first sawmills in the valley was constructed in Center Creek Canyon by Henry McMullin, William M. Wall and James Adams.

A general store was opened by William Baxter, who also operated a creamery. He bought milk from the farmers, made it into butter and

then took it to Park City where he sold it and bought goods to sell in his store.

Other industry has included a separate telephone company, water-works and a power company.

The telephone company was organized January 27, 1905 as a co-operative venture with Daniel. The line was brought from Heber City by way of Daniels Creek. Men from both communities went into the canyons to cut and haul red pine poles to build the five miles of telephone line necessary. Each family desiring service agreed to buy his own telephone, do the necessary installation work and pay an equal share of the cash outlay for wire and insulators. It was also agreed that each family would pay 75 cents per month for service.

By 1912 the Center and Daniel Telephone Company was ready for corporate organization and the articles of incorporation were signed January 15, 1912.

Repair work was done by the subscribers themselves; which often proved a task. When the circuit was broken, someone would volunteer to find the trouble, often having to wade through mud or water or snow in the winter, and then often not being able to locate the trouble spot immediately.

As more telephones were added the two communities formed their own separate companies in 1932. Finally in 1960 and 1961 the companies were merged in the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The community water works was formed in 1915 with the source of supply a spring about three miles into Center Creek Canyon. A trench to bring the water into the community was dug with only hand labor. Because the community was not incorporated, it was not able to borrow funds to buy materials to complete the water line. So three individuals,



Albert Giles makes the last telephone call from his home in Center Creek on the old party line before the telephone system was changed to modern equipment in 1961.

James Lindsay, Hugh W. Harvey and James W. Clyde signed a note for the materials and the line was completed.

The electric line to Center Creek was also installed by individuals in the community, but then turned over to the Heber Light and Power Company for service and maintenance.

Farming activities in the early days of Center Creek were strenuous, and required hard labor from sun-up to sunset. Clearing the land of sage brush was one of the first tasks that the early homesteaders faced. Some would use ox teams, while others used horses. There was still a lot of hand digging involved, in spite of the animals.

As the land was cleared, the brush would be thrown aside and the youngsters would gather it up in huge piles ready for evening "burning contests." Each family tried to get the biggest pile so that its flames would shoot highest in the evening sky. Often times the children would join in torch races with blazing sage brush branches. Casualties were few, but every now and then someone would catch afire and then everyone would stop their games to dip the unfortunate one in the irrigation ditch.

Other farm activities included building fences, mangers, outbuildings, feed boxes, digging and building deep pits for storing carrots, potatoes or turnips, and of course, hauling manure from the corrals to the fields. Each fall all the menfolk went into the canyons to work on the reservoirs.

Keeping a supply of firewood on hand was always a big problem, and the men and boys spent many days in the hills bringing in a winter's supply of wood.

Caring for the animals on the farm also required constant labor, including feeding, milking the cows, tending herds of sheep, shoeing the horses and breaking in the young animals.

Even taking a bath in the old farm homes was a chore. The bath began several hours in advance when a hot fire would be built in the stove. Then water would be carried in from the spring or the well and heated in the large boilers or kettles on the stove.

Meanwhile, the wash tub would be positioned near the stove, with a couple of chairs and a blanket generally used to make the bath a little more private.

Then, when the water was at the right temperature, the bath could begin. However, if you found that the water was either too hot or too cold, troublesome adjustments had to be made with dippers or tea kettles.

With the bath finally over, the water had to be emptied and the boilers, the tub and all the kettles cleaned up and returned to their proper places.

When more than one active youngster took a bath at a time, mothers usually had to watch their offspring quite carefully to see that their "horseplay" didn't carry them too close to the hot stove, lest they carry a "Saturday night bath brand" with them for a week or so.



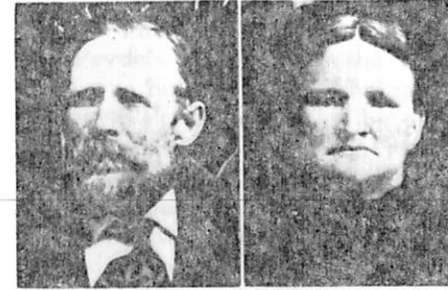
Threshing time at Center Creek. Shown here are Albert Giles on the wheel of the old tractor, with Archie Briggs on the ground and James W. Lindsay on the thresher.

Threshing time in late summer or early fall also brought hard work and excitement to the farms. Most farmers would pool their efforts, and travel from farm to farm to complete the work. Threshing crews generally consisted of from 10 to 15 men.

For weeks in advance the women-folk would plan the food, and dishes would be borrowed and loaned all over the community. Pies, cakes and steamed puddings would be cooked for days before the men were scheduled to arrive. Then, when the threshing machines rolled into the fields, vegetables, meats, home made bread, pickles and jam were all added to the menu. The men who sat down to the tables put away the food almost as fast as the threshing machines ate up the bundles of wheat or oats in the fields. And, it seemed more than coincidence that the break-downs usually occurred at the places where the food was best.

However, life was more than just hard work for the farmers. In the evenings they enjoyed taking part in dramatics, in music and in sports. Center always boasted excellent ball teams, and some of the best players included the three Ryan brothers, Homer, Ern and Frank along with Jack and Alex Allison, Nels Miller, Virge Howe, Jim Lindsay Jr., and Orvis Call. Hugh W. Harvey was an excellent singer, and in company with Livingston Montgomery provided some of the musical highlights of the valley. He also took leading roles in dramatics along with the Cluff family. Dancing also occupied a large part of the social life, and people would travel from the community to community to enjoy dancing parties. Jim Wheeler, Henry Walker, William and Homer Ryan, Dick Duke, Ed

WILLIAM AND MARY BLAKE



William and Mary Lake Blake were born in beautiful Devonshire, England, and as young people heard the missionaries of the LDS Church, and believed their message. They met again in Utah several years later and were married in the Endowment House October 2, 1871.

The first seven years of their married life were spent in Salt Lake, and Wanship, Summit County, where the first four children were born.

In the spring of 1878 they arrived in Center Creek in an ox drawn covered wagon. William homesteaded 160 acres of land on which they settled. They built a small house in which to live, and proceeded to clear the land. It was a slow job with a grubber, but they were true pioneers and never gave up. When the family grew larger, William and the boys did some canyon work getting out logs and sawing them to mining timber. These they sold to some of the Park City mines. William also operated a creamery and grocery store, where he and his neighbors could market their milk and eggs. He hauled the produce every week to Park City market, and returned with store supplies.

The other eight members of the Blake family were born and reared in Wasatch County. Their home was usually filled with neighbors and friends enjoying games and group singing with William at the organ.

William served as Bishop of the Center Ward for about four years before moving to Provo Bench, where he could educate his children at BYU.

The Blake family loved their neighbors in Center Ward who were all so kind and helpful.

main musicians with William Harvey quadrills.

not be complete without mentioning was considered very good. (1891) lers of Center. He was a Scotsman, all. The hall was used for dancing, ch programs; in later years for basket- ng the east side and although it con- able and some shelves, very delicious main cooks were Mary Mair Lindsay, y. Many of the early couples were his hall. But the most important event he Scots from far and near gathered to e poet, Bobby Burns. The Ritchie's idway, the Lindsay's, Montgomery's, many more gathered to sing and recite uld dance the Highland Fling. Jim d recite. Andrew Lindsay would sing, "Annie Laurie," with the group join- ould end with dinner and all singing

schedules, and with dramatics, danc- their lives, the people in Center Creek o their religious duties.

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BISHOPS OF THE CENTER CREEK WARD



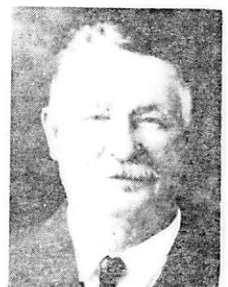
Benjamin Cluff



William Blake



Alonzo Adelbert Brim



Thomas G. Clegg



David Warren Smith



Hugh W. Harvey



Bennett Lindsay



Otis Sweat



Edward H. Burgener



Delbert Sweat

chase a chapel in Heber that had been used as a Methodist Church, and move the building to Center Creek. This was accomplished in 1915, with Bishop Harvey laughingly telling the members of the ward that they had worked well together in converting a whole church to the Latter-day Saints faith.

Two years later, on July 29, 1917, Bishop Harvey and his counselors were released. Bennett Lindsay was called to be the new Bishop, and became the ward's seventh bishop. Sustained as counselors to Bishop Lindsay were Elmer Mahoney and J. Howard Thomas. James Levar Christensen was ward clerk.

In 1923 Bishop Lindsay and his counselors recognized the need for recreational facilities in the community and determined to build a recreation hall in connection with the chapel. This was constructed at a cost of about \$3,000. Later, in 1927 electric lights were installed in both the chapel and the recreation hall.

As Bishop Lindsay continued to serve, the need for a new chapel became increasingly great, and so in 1936 an entirely new meeting house was begun. For two years the people worked together to erect the chapel. Many hours of volunteer labor went into the chapel, which was completed in 1938. Shortly after the work was finished, Bishop Lindsay was released. During the 21 years he served, he had as other counselors Darwin Duke, Otis Sweat and Lewis Sweat Jr. Clerks who served were C. Ray Mahoney and Rodney Mahoney.

Otis Sweat was sustained as the ward's eighth bishop. His counselors were Louris Mahoney and Hyrum Christensen, with Arthur Duke as clerk. Later Edward Burgener became clerk. The chapel which Bishop Lindsay had worked to complete was not free of debt when Bishop Sweat was called to serve. During his years as bishop he worked to clear up the debt so that the chapel could be officially dedicated for worship purposes. Finally, on Jan. 9, 1949 the chapel was dedicated to the Lord. Then in 1950 Bishop Sweat was released and Edward Burgener was called as the ward's ninth bishop.

Under Bishop Burgener the building program was renewed, and the old recreation hall was remodeled and an addition was planned to the chapel. Included in this new addition were new classrooms, a modern kitchen and an enlarged Relief Society room.

Counselors who served with Bishop Burgener were LeRoy Sweat and Kenneth Anderson. Harvey Crook was clerk. They served until May 22, 1960, when Delbert Sweat was sustained as bishop, with Harvey Crook and Grant Mahoney as counselors. Dean Sweat was sustained as ward clerk. Harvey Crook moved away in 1961 and Garold Christensen was sustained as 2nd counselor.

Auxiliary organizations in the Center Creek Ward have been strong supports to the bishops down through the years. The following individuals have served in the organizations and have helped to make the programs succeed:



The Center Creek Ward Chapel. The east, sandstone portion was built under the direction of Bishop Bennett Lindsay and the west, or brick portion was completed while Bishop Edward H. Burgener served.

RELIEF SOCIETY: The ward Relief Society was organized on Sept. 5, 1879 with Mary Ellen Cluff as president. Counselors were Ann Richardson and Margaret Ellen Hundley. Josephine Cluff was secretary.

In 1893 Sister Hundley was called as president and chose as her counselors Johanna Richardson and Floretta Ryan, with Ann Harvey as secretary. Mary Jane Brim became president in 1895 with Phebe Hanna Bethers and Janette L. M. Baird as counselors and Mary Blake as secretary. Sustained as president in 1898 was Rebecca Anderson, with Catherine Lloyd and Mary Forman as counselors and Orpha Forman and later Maria Louise Sessions as secretaries. Floretta Ryan later became a counselor to Sister Anderson.

Arbelia Harvey was sustained president in 1907 with Katherine Lloyd and Lettie Jensen as counselors and Martha Cluff as secretary. Amanda Christensen later became secretary. Another counselor to Sister Harvey before her release in 1917 was Nancy Mahoney. Amanda C. Edler was also secretary for several years.

Nancy Mahoney became Relief Society president in 1917 and served until 1934. Those who were counselors to her included Katherine Miller Lloyd, Sarah Lindsay and Annie Crook. Ora G. Sweat was secretary during Sister Mahoney's entire presidency.

Mary Thomas became president in 1934 and chose as counselors Amanda Edler and Irene Duke. Ora G. Sweat continued as secretary.

Then in 1936 Della Peterson was called as president and she chose as counselors Ora G. Sweat and Myrtle Ivie. Sarah Lindsay was sustained as secretary. Annie Crook became president in 1937 and retained Sisters Sweat, Ivie and Lindsay as her co-workers.

Mary Mahoney was called as president in 1940 and she chose as her

counselors Ora H. Sweat and Myrtle Ivie. Bertha Sweat served as secretary. Later, Sarah Lindsay was called again as secretary, and in 1948 Sister Lindsay was sustained as president. Her counselors were Lucile C. Burgener and Virginia Sweat. Sarah Thelma Sweat was secretary.

Sister Lindsay was released in 1950 and Ora H. Sweat was called to be the new president. Virginia Sweat, Lucile Burgener, Mabel Anderson, Kathryn Muir and Lila Christensen served as her counselors. Mary Mahoney was secretary. Sister Sweat was released July 31, 1960 and Mabel Anderson was chosen as president, with Virginia Sweat and Rhoda Briggs as counselors and Melba Sundblom, secretary. In 1961 Lila Christensen was sustained as 1st counselor and Norma Christensen as secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Center Creek Ward Sunday School was organized on February 15, 1880 with William Blake as superintendent. Those who have served as superintendents include James J. Howe, 1885 to 1889; William Blake, 1889 to 1893; Robert Lindsay, 1893 to 1900; H. W. Harvey, 1900 to 1901; William Richardson, 1901 to 1904; D. Warren Smith, 1904 to 1908; Charles Jensen 1908 to 1912; Rollo Mahoney, 1913 to 1914; J. Thomas Crook, 1915 and 1916; James LeVar Christensen, 1917 to 1919; Lewis Sweat Jr., 1920 to 1928; J. Thomas Crook, 1929 to 1936; Arthur Duke, 1936 to 1938; Alvie Sweat, 1938 to 1942; Nephi W. Burgener, 1943 to 1944; LeRoy Sweat, 1945 and 1946; Harvey Crook, 1947 to 1950; Delbert Sweat, 1950 to 1958; Dean Sweat, 1958 to 1960; and Thomas Edward Wade, since 1960.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION: The work among children of Primary age has always been important in Center Creek Ward and many capable presidents have served. Eliza R. Snow organized the ward Primary on Sept. 5, 1879 and one month later Rhoda E. Harvey was called as the first president. Later her mother, Ann Harvey, became president, and she was succeeded by Lucy Hundley and Millie Cluff. Then again on October 2, 1880, Ann Harvey was sustained as president and served until January 27, 1900. Sustained as president was Lovina Sweat Bunnell, who was succeeded on July 5, 1901 by Mary Jane Jones Smith. She served only a month until Sept. 2, 1901, when Katherine Miller Lloyd was sustained as president. Then in 1904, Mary Jane Smith again became president and served until 1907 when Eva M. Hansen was sustained. Sarah Lindsay was the next president, being called in 1909. She served until 1912 when Mary Thomas became president and served for 18 years. Mary C. Mahoney was next called in 1930 and served until 1938 when Ora H. Sweat became president. Lavenia Price was sustained in 1940 and served until 1943 when Virginia Sweat became president. Lucille C. Burgener was sustained president in 1944 and served until 1946 when Della Peterson was called. Elizabeth Sweat became president in 1948. In 1951 Lorna A. Sweat became president and was succeeded in 1952 by Rhoda Snyder Briggs. Dona T. Sweat became presi-

dent in 1955 and served until 1958 when Norma L. Christensen was sustained. Beth W. Crook was sustained in August of 1960. Beth moved in 1961 and Shirley Sweat was sustained.

YOUNG MEN'S MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSN.—Organized in 1879, the YMMIA in Center Creek had as its first superintendent Benjamin Cluff. He served until 1880 when William Blanchard was sustained as superintendent. Others who have served as superintendent include James Howe, 1881; William Ryan, 1882; (no records were kept then until 1896) Hugh W. Harvey, 1896 and 1897; William Ryan, 1898 to 1899; Hugh W. Harvey, 1900 to 1904; Anthon M. Hansen, 1904; Soren C. Christensen, 1905 to 1906; Charles Jensen, 1907 to 1908; Ray Mahoney, 1909; Charles Madsen, 1910 to 1911; Louris Mahoney, 1912 to 1916; Ray Mahoney, 1917 to 1918; John J. Peterson, 1919; Louris Mahoney, 1920 to 1925; Elmer Sweat, 1926 to 1928; Otis Sweat, 1929 to 1930; Louris Mahoney, 1931 to 1934; Otis Sweat, 1935; Ewing Peterson, 1936; Delbert Sweat, 1937 to 1939; LeRoy Sweat, 1940; Kenneth Anderson, 1941 to 1950; Neil Mahoney, 1950 to 1958; Harvey Crook, 1958 to 1960 and Boyd Sweat since 1960.

YOUNG WOMEN'S MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION: Youth work among young women in Center Creek began on an organized basis in November of 1887 when Maria Louisa Sessions was called as the first president of the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association. Others who have served as presidents of the YLMIA or its successor, the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Assn., include the following: Mary C. Brim, 1888-1889; Mary J. Hughes, 1889 to 1891; Sarah A. Richardson, 1891-1898; Arbelia Harvey, 1898; Mary Jane Smith, 1898 to 1900; Agnes Fisher, 1900 to 1903; Maggie Hundley, 1903 to 1904; Mary Thomas, 1905 to 1906; Elizabeth Lindsay, 1907 to 1908; Nancy Mahoney, 1909 to 1911; Catherine Lloyd, 1912 to 1916; Annie H. Crook, 1917 to 1918; Amanda Edler, 1919; Della S. Peterson, 1920; Pearl Streets, 1921; Emeline Sweat, 1922; Emeline Sweat (Mahoney), 1923 to 1935; Odetta Cummings, 1935 to 1938; Emeline S. Mahoney, 1938 to 1939; Odetta Cummings, 1940 to 1943; Lila Christensen, 1943 to 1950; Katherine Muir, 1950 to 1955; Ruth Elliott, 1955 to 1957; Lorna Sweat, 1957 to 1959 and Ruth Mahoney, since 1959.

SCHOOLS

Until consolidation of the Wasatch County schools, Center Creek maintained an adequate educational program for its children. The first Center Creek School convened in a one room log building heated only by a pot belly stove in the middle of the room. George Wootton was one of the early teachers, and usually had some 80 students in grades one through eight. Other early teachers included Elisha Jones, Mary Brim, Sarah Muir, Violet Ryan, Brigham Clegg, Elfreda Jaspersen, Carlie Clegg, Millie Har-



Robert W. Dowma, an early Center Creek school teacher, and some of his students who studied in extra school work at night. He gave them free instruction each evening of a school day in his room at the home of James Lindsay. Pictured here, front row, left to right, are Jean Lindsay, Rose Richardson, Maggie Lindsay and Jennie Baxter. In the rear are John Burt, Irene Hundley and Mr. Dowma.

vey, Ella Cluff, J. E. Martin, Charles Wahlquist, Robert W. Dowma, Maggie Flitner, Allie Rice and A. M. Hansen.

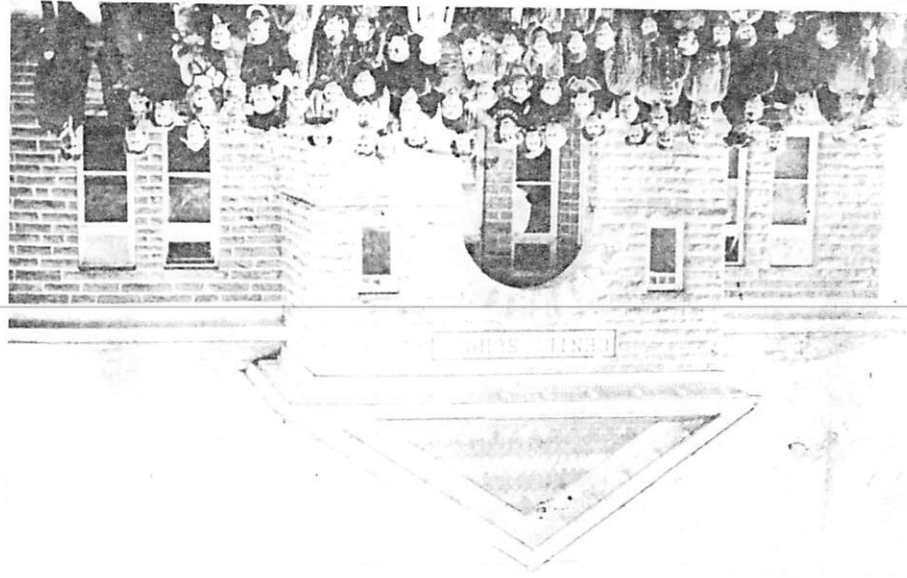
In later years a sandstone school building of two rooms was built. As the student population increased two more rooms were added to the building and a modern heating plant installed. An average of four teachers served in this building, which was used until consolidation of the schools when the pupils were taken by bus to Heber City.

Some of the later teachers in the community included LaVar Christensen, Mabel Jorgenson, Charles Madison, Rollo Mahoney, Nile Allison, Emeline Sweat, Lizzie Fisher, Clyde Bramwell, Helen Taylor, P. G. Anderson and Frank Farnsworth.

Center Creek today is a prosperous little country village with some 55 families all living in good homes. Their lives are characterized by kindness and friendliness to all who come into their midst.

Typical of the spirit of the people is an accident in the lives of the Robert Lindsay family, which occurred before the turn of the century.

About a mile above the Lindsay home lived Rasmus Nielson Miller and his family. One day when the family was away, Mrs. Miller was caught in a brush fire and burned to death. In the ensuing months, Brother Miller did his best to care for the family, but soon exhausted the few funds he had.



The Center School, a community center for learning. It was used until the school district was consolidated and students were taken by bus to Heber.

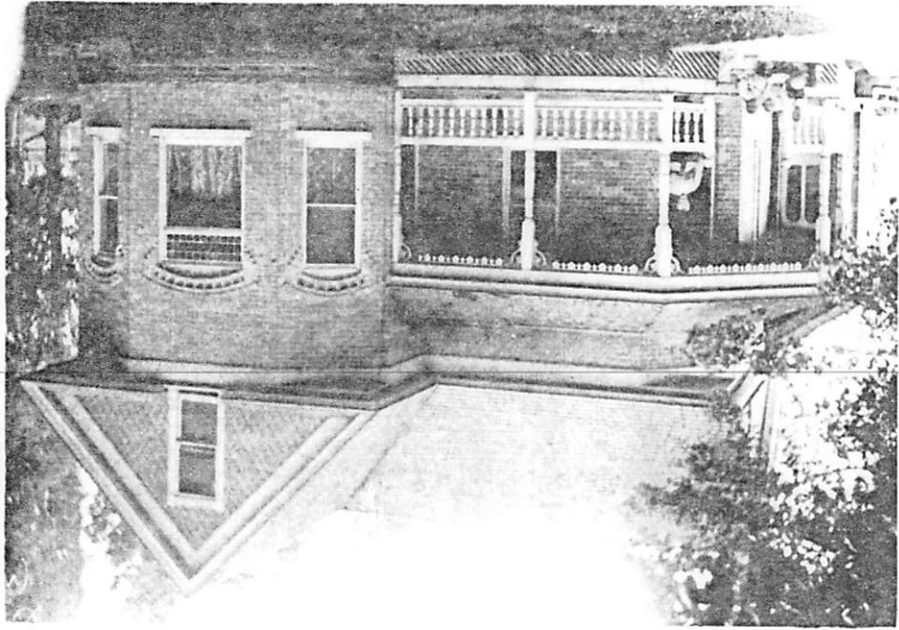
On the day before Christmas, one of the Lindsay girls, Elizabeth,

recalled the following events:

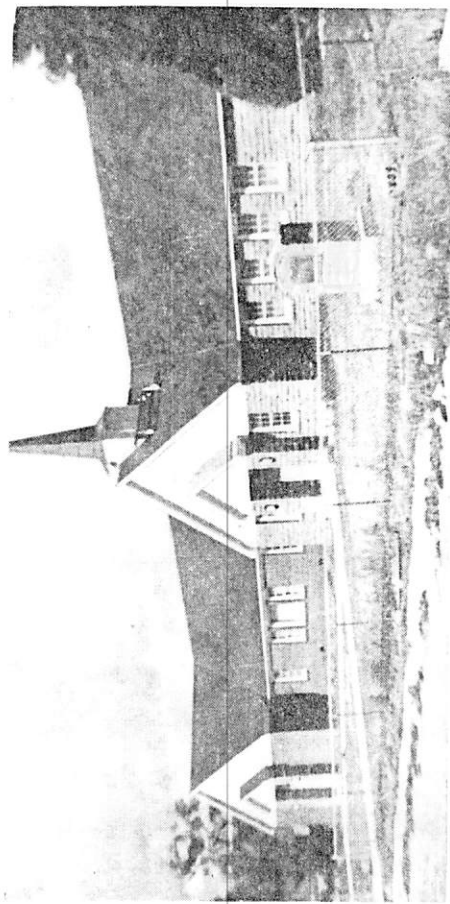
"Father came in from the yard and called mother and the family together and said 'I can see Brother Miller walking to town through the snow. He is probably going to Heber to buy something to make Christmas for his little family. I'm sure that after the expenses he has had to meet that he won't have much to spend. Now, why don't you all go through your belongings and each one select something you like real well to give to this family and we will have it all ready for him when he comes back from town. Mother will direct you and help you to get a gift for each of the family.'"

"We all agreed. We didn't have toys and books and jewelry such as we have today, but we all found something to contribute. I don't remember what each one gave, but Rob divided up his choice colored pencils and sent half of them to Niels. Mother found underwear for each one. There were a few toys and a book. I put my only 'store' doll in the pack. It was a choice, china-headed darling with shiny black china hair. I loved it, and no other doll that I ever owned afterwards quite took its place. It went to Minnie. I also sent a tin breast pin with a picture on it to Lana. Another doll was added for Lana who was the younger girl."

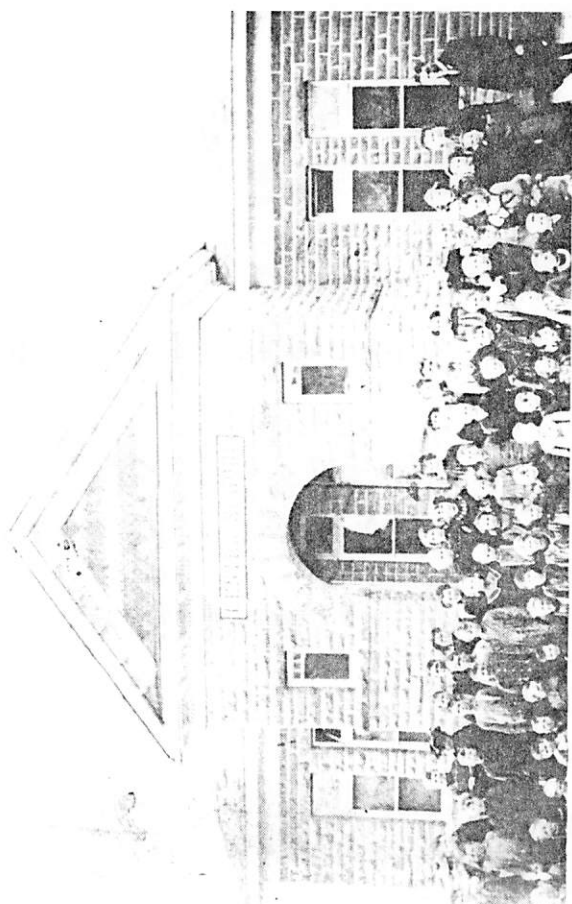
"When the bundle was all tied up it contained something for each child besides cookies and candy, and it was really a big, interesting bundle. Father took it down to the road when he saw Brother Miller



The James Lindsay home in Center Creek, built in 1899 and now owned by Albert Giles. Shown here is Agnes Lindsay with her grandchildren seated on the porch steps. We watched from the window and could see that he was very much pleased. When he put the big pack on his back and started up the hill he really looked like Santa Claus. Father told us Brother Miller had only been able to buy a little bag of nuts for his children, so he was very grateful for the contributions of our family."



The Center Creek Ward Chapel. The east, sandstone portion was built under the direction of Bishop Bennett Lindsay and the west, or brick portion was completed while Bishop Edward H. Burgener served.



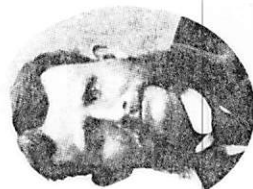
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William Blake



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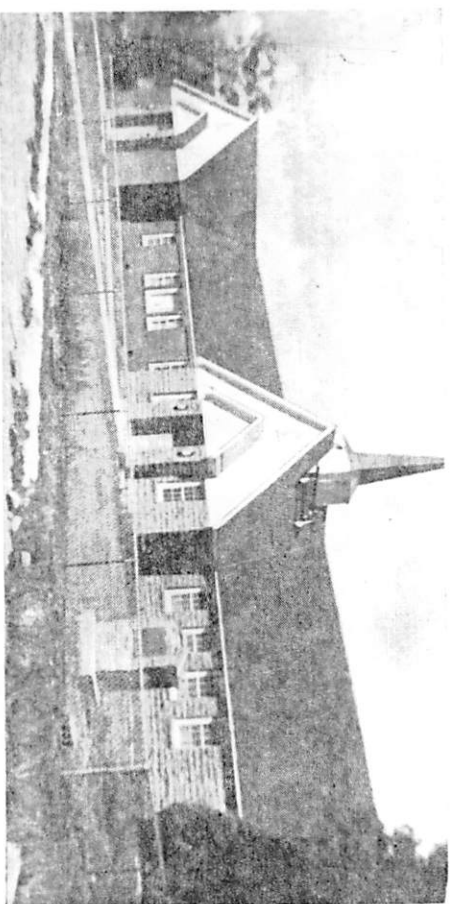


Delbert Sweat

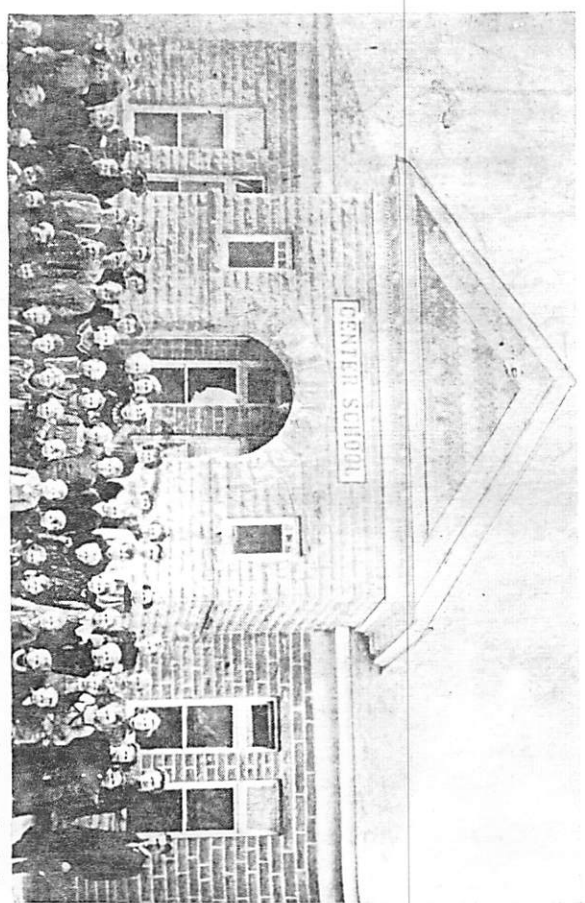
LDS Buildings of Center Creek Ward



1056 HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS



The Center Creek Ward Chapel. The east, sandstone portion was built under the direction of Bishop Bennett Lindsay and the west, or brick portion was completed while Bishop Edward H. Burgence served. p1056



The Center School, a community center for learning. It was used until the school district was consolidated and students were taken by bus to Heber.

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*New State
center
chapel*